

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 7-10, 12, 13 and 15-20 are pending in this application. Claim 15-20 have been added. Claims 2-6, 11 and 14 are cancelled.

Claim 15 had been added as supported in the present specification, including at page 9, lines 13-14. Claim 16 had been added as supported in the present specification, including at page 12, lines 14-17. Claim 17 had been added as supported in the present specification, including at page 13, lines 10-13. Claim 18 had been added as supported in the present specification, including at page 5, lines 13-20. Claim 19 had been added as supported in the present specification, including at page 5, lines 13-20. Claim 20 had been added as supported in the present specification, including at page 6, lines 11-20. No new matter has been added.

The present invention is to solve specific problems possessed by an ink-jet recording material having an ink-receptive layer with specific characteristics, i.e., it has an ink-receptive layer containing a large amount of fumed silica which is in the form of ultrafine particles providing a porous state. Such problems include surface flaws which are caused at the time of heat treatment or during storage in a rolled state. The presently claimed invention addresses such problems, for example, by providing a novel and unobvious paper support coated by a polyolefin resin such as recited in claim 1, wherein the ink-receptive layer contains fumed silica in an amount of 50 to 90% by weight and 10 - 35 g/m².

The applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 1, 6-10 and 12 under 35 USC 103(a) over Kojima et al. in view of Kobayashi et al and Hosoi et al. These references do not make the presently claimed invention to be obvious.

The Office Action states the following at page 4, second line from bottom to page 5, line 6:

“...it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to further optimize the amount of particles added to provide fumed silica in the amount of 50 to 90 wt% as in claim 5, and in claim 1 in an amount from 10 to 35 g/m² because Kojima teaches that in order to control the values of chroma L, a and b at the surface of the support on which the ink-receiving layer is to be coated, various colorants, such as silica, may be added to the base paper layer, the intermediate layer, or the resin coated layer and that the amount of such colorants may be optionally changed depending on the hue characteristics or coating weight in order to exhibit excellent light resistance and heat resistance of the ink-receiving layer at col. 10, lines 10-30.”

However, the above referenced disclosure of Kojima does not concern a pigment such as silica, etc. contained in an ink-receptive layer as in the presently claimed invention, but rather concerns a colorant to be added to a base paper, an intermediate layer or a resin-coated layer which is a constituent of the support (as disclosed at column 3, lines 26-45 of Kojima). The base paper and the resin-coated layer of Kojima, as well as the intermediate layer of Kojima do not concern an ink-receptive layer of the presently claimed invention.

In contrast to Kojima, claim 1 of the present application recites that “the ink-receptive layer contains fumed silica in an amount of 50 to 90% by weight and 10 - 35 g/m²” and this is directed to an amount of the fumed silica contained in the ink-receptive layer of the present invention. Thus, the disclosure of Kojima is irrelevant to the recited subject matter of claim 1 of the present application.

Accordingly, the applicants submit that a person of ordinary skill in the art would not find the subject matter of the presently claimed invention, such as recited in claim 1, to be suggested by the teachings of Kojima.

Moreover, the Office Action appears to reflect a misunderstanding by stating that “various colorants, such as silica, may be added to the base paper layer, the intermediate layer, or the resin coated layer and that the amount of such colorants may be optionally changed depending on the hue characteristics or coating weight in order to exhibit excellent light resistance and heat resistance of the ink-receiving layer” (at page 5, lines 3-6 of the Office Action). The portion of Kojima in question describes that “the colorants added are preferably excellent in light resistance and heat resistance” at column 10, lines 23-24 thereof. Thus, the colorants used in Kojima are not used to improve the light resistance and heat resistance of the ink-receiving layer but rather the colorants having excellent light resistance and heat resistance are to be used. Thus, again the applicants submit that a person of ordinary skill in the art would not find the subject matter of the presently claimed invention, such as recited in claim 1, to be suggested by the teachings of Kojima.

Hosoi et al. does not remedy the deficiencies of Kojima. Hosoi is directed to an invention which employs a support having no water-resistant property. This is based on the description at column 2, lines 35-38 of Hosoi, that “the shrinkage of the printing paper takes place by virtue of the infiltration of water into the substrate from an ink and subsequent dehydration.” This is quite irrelevant to the presently claimed invention since the present invention relates to an ink-jet recording material using a water-resistant support, i.e., a resin-coated paper support. Moreover, the technical objects of Hosoi mentioned at column 2, lines 2-10, are significantly different from

the objects of the presently claimed invention, which are described in the present specification at the paragraph bridging pages 3 and 4.

The applicants submit that a person of ordinary skill in the art would not consider combining the teachings of Kojima with the teachings of Hosoi when contemplating the presently claimed invention. There is no suggestion or motivation to combine the teaching of Hosoi with the teachings of Kojima to result in the presently claimed invention. The applicants submit that the combination of references is not tenable and should accordingly be withdrawn.

Even if the combined teachings of Kojima and Hosoi were considered by a person of ordinary skill in the art then such combined teachings would not make the presently claimed invention to be obvious for the several reasons discussed above.

The teachings of Kobayashi do not remedy the deficiencies of Kojima and Hosoi.

Kobayashi discloses the use of fumed silica. Importantly, however, Kobayashi discloses a recording material using a transparent support. This is quite different from a recording material which uses a resin-coated paper as in the presently claimed invention.

The applicants submit that a person of ordinary skill in the art would not consider combining the teachings of Kobayashi with those of Kojima and Hosoi when contemplating the presently claimed invention. There is no suggestion or motivation to combine the three references to result in the presently claimed invention.

Accordingly, the applicants assert that the combination of references is not tenable and should be withdrawn.

Even if a person of ordinary skill in the art were to consider the combined teachings of the references, such combination would not make the presently claimed invention to be obvious, as clearly shown above. Concerning Kobayashi, this is particularly true since a resin-coated paper is not disclosed in Kobayashi.

The applicants submit that the presently claimed invention is no where disclosed, suggested or made obvious by the combined teachings of Kojima, Kobayashi and Hosoi. The presently claimed invention is fully allowable under Section 103(a) in view of the cited art.

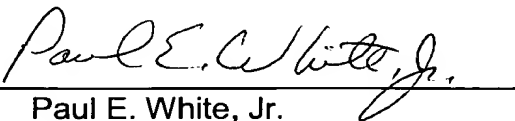
The applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claim 14 under 35 USC 103(a) over Kojima in view of Kobayashi and Hosoi and further taken with Kasahara et al. However, please note that claim 14 is not pending in this application as noted at page 1 of the Office Action.

Accordingly, the applicants submit that this rejection has been made in error. If the Examiner meant to reject another claim then any subsequent Office Action which correctly states the rejection, should not be made final.

In view of the above, it is believed that this application is in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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